

CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently amended) A system for rapid manipulation and cutting
2 comprising:
3 a housing,
4 a bearing block attached to an end of the housing,
5 a first cutting element, the first cutting element being an eccentric disc rotatably
6 connected to the bearing block by an axle, wherein the first cutting element is
7 configured to rotate eccentrically, and
8 a drive mechanism adapted to be mounted at least partly within the housing and
9 operatively connected to the first cutting element for providing torque about the
10 axle of the first cutting element,
11 wherein the first cutting element, the axle, the housing and the bearing block are
12 configured such that a cutting edge of the disc is exposed beyond the end of the
13 bearing block distal to the housing for only a part of the eccentric rotation, and
14 the cutting element is exposed beyond the housing for the part of the eccentric
15 rotation.

2-3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the housing is
2 roughly cylindrical, the roughly cylindrical housing having an altitude and a
3 radius, the altitude being much larger than the radius.

1 5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the housing is shaped as a
2 handpiece.

6. (Canceled)

1 7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the housing is shaped for use as
2 a tissue manipulator for blunt force dissection.

1 8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first cutting
2 element is adapted for cutting tissue.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the housing is adapted for use
2 as a tissue probe.

10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first cutting
2 element is adapted for cutting man-made materials.

12-13. (Canceled)

1 14. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system includes means for
2 electrocautery.

1 15. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism includes a
2 pinion gear assembly.

1 16. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism includes a
2 pulley drive assembly.

1 17. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism includes a
2 bevel gear drive assembly.

1 18. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism includes a
2 direct motor drive assembly.

1 19. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism includes a
2 crank arm drive assembly.

1 20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a
2 second cutting element.

1 21. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism includes
2 hydraulic means.

1 22. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism includes
2 pneumatic means.

1 23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is
2 configured to provide a variable depth of cut determined by the eccentricity of the
3 first cutting element.

1 24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is
2 configured to provide a variable ramp angle of the incision determined by the
3 eccentricity of the first cutting element.

1 25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is
2 configured to provide a variable rate of cut determined by the eccentricity of the
3 first cutting element.

26. (Canceled)

1 27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the disc is
2 eccentrically mounted on the axle.

1 28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the disc is circular.

1 29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the disc is elliptical.

1 30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said second
2 cutting element is an eccentric disc rotatably connected to the bearing block by
3 the axle, said second cutting element being configured to rotate eccentrically,
4 and wherein said first cutting element and said second cutting element are
5 parallel.

1 31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the first cutting
2 element and the second cutting element are configured to move synchronously.